



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Kentucky Field Office



News Release

Cooperating with Kentucky Department of Agriculture
PO Box 1120 · Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
(502) 582-5293 · (502) 582-5114 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/ky

Date: May 11, 2011

KENTUCKY FARMERS EXPECT GOOD WHEAT CROP

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 27.1 million bushels of winter wheat during 2011 according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2011 would be up 64 percent from the 2010 crop which experienced planting problems due to a wet fall. Strong wheat prices encouraged farmers to seed 540,000 acres last fall with 410,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Based on crop conditions as of May 1 and assuming a normal growing season, farmers expect a yield of 66 bushels per acre, unchanged from 2010. Acres for other uses totaled 130,000 acres and will be used as cover crop for tobacco or cut as silage or hay. As of May 1, 45 percent of the wheat had headed, well ahead of last year's 20 percent, and 30 percent average over the last 5 years. Wet conditions and localized flooding are a concern to wheat growers. Warmer and drier conditions will be needed during May and June to minimize disease problems and produce the good quality and yield currently expected.

Winter wheat production for the Nation was forecast at 1.42 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2010. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 32.0 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield was forecast at 44.5 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from last year.

The final production estimate of Kentucky burley tobacco for 2010 was 140.4 million pounds, down 13 percent from the 161.3 million pounds produced in 2009. Average yields were 1,950 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from the 2009 crop. Acreage harvested was 72,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from 2009. Average price per pound was estimated at \$1.50 per pound, down 20 cents from the previous year.

Burley production for the burley producing States totaled 188 million pounds, 13 percent below 2009. Seven states make up the burley producing states. Kentucky, the leading producer of burley tobacco, produced 75 percent of all burley grown in the United States.

LELAND E. BROWN
Director